

CZM/Taylor Tract Acquisition at Kiptopeke State Park

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

**Final Report
FY 2008 Task 10**

March 2010

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The views expressed herein are those of the author and do not reflect the views of NOAA or any of its subagencies.



At a January 2009 meeting of the "Southern Tip Partnership," (a group of 5 conservation agencies – USFWS, DCR, DGIF, TNC and the Virginia CZM Program – formally brought together through a Memorandum of Understanding: see <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal/eslandconservation.html>) agreed to pursue acquisition of a 26 acre in-holding at Kiptopeke Sate Park. The parcel fronts on Route 13, has a 5 acre pond, a house in poor condition and fallow agricultural fields. The site is within the critical migratory songbird stopover area on the southern tip of the Eastern Shore and is ideal for conversion to migratory songbird habitat that would be connected to existing habitat areas.

The parcel was purchased in July 2009 by one of the Southern Tip partners, The Nature Conservancy, and held until grant funds could be put in place. In October of 2009 the Virginia CZM Program sought and received NOAA approval to expend CZM funds on a grant to DCR to purchase the parcel from TNC. Virginia CZM provided all funding for the project by using \$244,846 from its FY 2007 Task 11 matched with \$70,000 and \$200,000 from its FY 2008 Task 10 matched with \$132,093 (this project). The matching funds for both grants were derived from a generous donation to the Virginia CZM Program (\$202,093) by James Taylor who gave a benefit concert in May 2008 to support the program's songbird habitat protection efforts. The total cost for the 26 acres of land was \$632,000 plus closing costs and other fees brought the total spent to \$646,939.



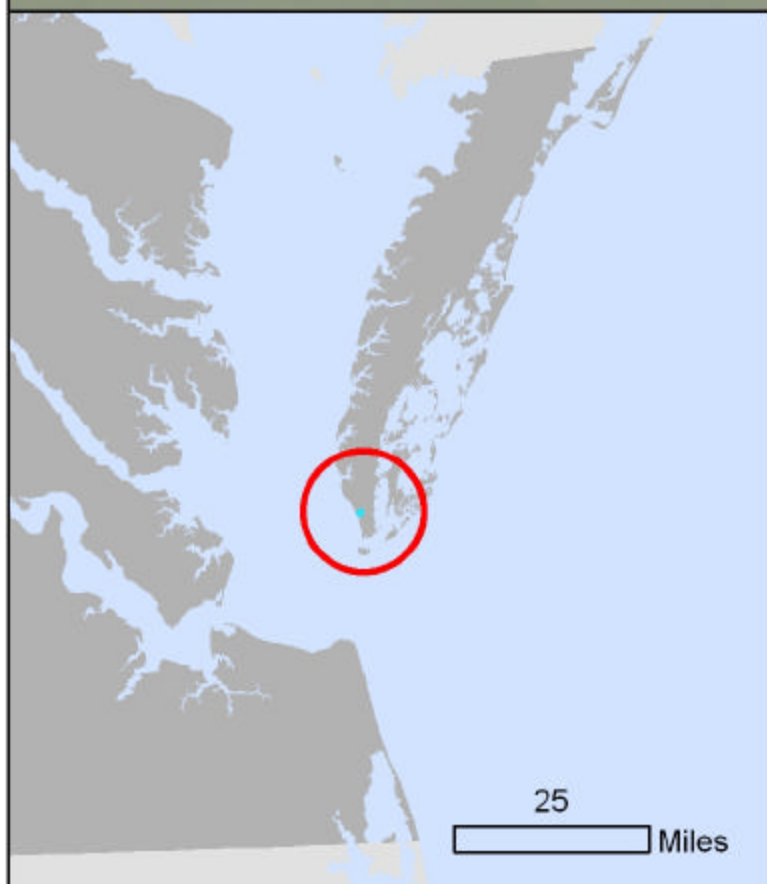
The 26 acre tract is the small dark square inside the large yellow tract (Kiptopeke Sate Park).

In December 2009 the Department of Conservation & Recreation closed on the property which is now part of Kiptopeke State Park. The site is being restored to migratory songbird habitat with CZM funds from FY 2008 Task 13. The Park plans to locate a new environmental education center on the site when state funds become available. The site will have trails connecting to other parts of the park, interpretive signage, a native plants demonstration garden and wildlife observation blinds also funded through FY 2008 Task 13.

CZM/Taylor Tract on Southern Tip of Virginia's Eastern Shore



-  CZM/Taylor Tract
-  Kiptopeke State Park



0.5

Miles



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Temporary acknowledgement sign at the CZM/Taylor Tract. This sign will be replaced using funds from FY 2008 Task 13.



The 26 acre tract contains a five a acre pond. An FY 2008 Task 13 grant will be used in part to treat Phragmites that is currently growing around the pond. That grant will also provide funds for viewing blinds, a walking trail, interpretive signage and reforestation of the fallow agricultural fields around the pond and toward route 13.



View of the property looking toward Route 13. The house on the property is in poor condition and will eventually be taken down and replaced with a new environmental education center for the park.



View of the property looking east from Route 13. As the cultivated farm fields are reforested, they will connect directly with existing State Park forest habitat seen in the background.



Heading south on Route 13 one sees the 3 billboards on the property. DCR hopes to eventually convince the owner to sell them the billboard easements. The "Parson's Tract," part of Kiptopeke State Park and also purchased in part with Virginia CZM funds, can be seen to the south. Habitat restoration on this new tract will connect the north and south forest habitats of the park along route 13.